

Minutes

Superintendent's Advisory Committee Public Schools Accountability Act of 1999

**General Services Building
1325 J Street, Room 1519
Sacramento, CA 95814**

**September 28, 2000
1:00 p.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Eva Baker, Director, Center for the Study of Evaluation, University of California at Los Angeles

Mary Alice Callahan, President, Morgan Hill Federation of Teachers

Rudy Castruita, San Diego County Superintendent of Schools

General Davie, Jr., co-chair; Superintendent, San Juan Unified School District

Patsy Estrellas, Teacher, Norwalk La Mirada School District/California Teachers Association

Jerry Hayward, Director, Policy Analysis for California Education

Jere Jacobs, Former Assistant Vice President, Pacific Telesis

Kelvin Lee, Superintendent, Dry Creek Joint Elementary School

Lynette Nyaggah, Teacher, Rio Hondo College

Dolores Ochoa, Parent, State Parent Advisory Board

Jeff Orlinsky, Teacher, Warren High School

Tamara Powers, Parent

Ernesto Ruiz, Director, Migrant Education, Region 2, Butte County Office of Education

Irene Sumida, Co-Director, Fenton Avenue Charter School

Rene Townsend, Professor/Consultant, CSU San Marcos, College of Education

Charles Weis, Ventura County Superintendent of Schools

Lynn Wilen, Superintendent, Reef Sunset Unified School District

MEMBERS ABSENT

Holly Covin, Acting Chair; Assistant Executive Director, Policy Analysis & Research, CSBA

Sam Araki, Former President, Lockheed Martin Missiles & Space

Tom Boysen, Senior Vice President, Education, Milken Family Foundation

John Mockler, Interim Secretary, Office of the Secretary for Education

Carl Cohn, Superintendent, Long Beach Unified School District

Leslie DeMersseman, Immediate Past President, California School Boards Association

Bob Friedman, Chief Operations Officer, CSIS

Ed Haertel, Professor, Stanford University, School of Education
Janett Humphries, President, SEIU Local 99, Los Angeles Unified School District
Cecelia Mansfield, California State PTA
Sidney Morrison, Principal, Arnold Elementary School/ACSA State President
Bill Ouchi, Vice-Dean, Anderson School, University of California at Los Angeles
Pat Pineda, Vice President, Legal, Environmental, and Government Affairs, NUMMI
Scott Plotkin, Chief Consultant and Staff Director, Senate Education Committee
Shelly Spiegel-Coleman, ESL Consultant, Los Angeles County Office of Education
Rosie Thompson, Business Unit Executive, IBM Global Education

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION LIAISONS

Marian Bergeson - Present
Susan Hammer - Absent

PRINCIPAL STAFF TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

William Padia, Director, Office of Policy and Evaluation
Wendy Harris, Director, Education Support and Networks Division
Pat McCabe, Manager, Education Planning and Information Center
Linda Carstens, Manager, Awards and Evaluation Unit

Call to Order: Mr. Hayward called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m., in the absence of the co-chairs.

1999-2000 API Growth and Awards Report: Mr. Padia began his report by stating he provided three workshops for the press regarding the API Growth Report release. He stated Monday, October 2nd API Growth Reports would be available to local educational agencies via a restricted Internet site. On Tuesday, October 3rd the media will gain access to the site. On Wednesday, October 4th the website would become unrestricted and the public would have access to the reports. He anticipates half a million visits to the site during the first three days.

Mr. Padia reviewed the September State Board of Education (SBE) item outlining the PSAA Committee recommendations related to student cheating and adult testing irregularities. For student cheating, the SBE approved the committee's recommendation to eliminate the scores of affected students from the calculation of the school's growth API. Students would be counted as tested and contribute to the school's participation rate, however the funding formula for the GPA award would be modified to eliminate those students from the total tested. In the case of adult testing irregularities, the committee recommended and the SBE approved the exclusion of the school from having a 2000 Growth API calculated and therefore, not eligible for participation in the award programs. The base year 2000 API is also invalid, so that the school would be ineligible for awards in the 2000-01 growth cycle as well.

The second issue presented at the September SBE meeting was an informational item which focused on the changes in the composition of the student population at a school. Districts were to report to the California Department of Education (CDE) those schools

which would not have a 2000 Growth API calculated due to significant population changes. Such schools would be ineligible for awards for the 1999-2000 awards cycle.

Mr. Padia informed the committee that a large group of schools (approximately 500 schools) were still in the process of correcting their data with Harcourt. Those particular schools would still be eligible for awards, however their Growth API would not be reported until December.

Mr. Padia reported that preliminary calculations indicate two-thirds of schools statewide made their growth target. Approximately 75% of the elementary schools, 56% of the middle schools and 38% of the high schools made their growth targets.

Mr. Padia explained there are three separate API releases coming up. The first release will include information on the October API Growth targets, whether the growth targets were achieved or not achieved, the significant subgroup data, and the GPA and SEP Bonus award eligibility. A second release, including the same information will occur again in December for all schools that made data corrections with Harcourt. In addition, Similar Schools ranks based on growth will be included. In January the 2000 API baseline, the Statewide ranks, the Similar Schools ranks for API baseline, the 2001 School Growth Target and the 2001 Significant Subgroup growth targets will be posted. Mr. Padia reviewed the Sample Internet School Growth Reports, Subgroup Reports and School Demographic Characteristics Report. He stated all three items are located in the Media Packet that is available on the API website.

Mr. Padia concluded his report by stating the Awards Unit would be going to the SBE with emergency regulations in October. The regulations were drafted from all the past items the PSAA committee recommended to the board and the board approved.

II/USP Subcommittee Report-out: General Davie proposed that the Awards and II/USP subcommittees combine as work begins on developing strategies for interventions and sanctions in II/USP schools. The groups agreed to combine for future meetings.

Mr. Davie reported there was consensus that the two systems, II/USP and Title 1 need to be aligned in terms of corrective action and sanctions. He recommended the use of the phrase "sanctions used"...instead of "corrective actions".

Discussion centered on the following three issues: enforcement, governance and nature of sanctions. Mr. Davie reported that in the area of enforcement, there was a need to define the district's role when working with II/USP schools. The current thought is to blend the district role into the intervention process at the beginning stages. Suggestions on how to clearly define district roles included:

- Using the CSRD model, which includes the district as a responsible participant;
- Writing a letter to County and District Superintendents to provide guidance for district roles and responsibilities;

- Developing a model/graphic to show districts the future consequences in an integrated way;
- Developing a "Communications Packet" for districts early on, including descriptions and challenges of the new indicators coming in the future;
- Developing a time line to assist the subcommittee in work related to regulations development;
- Developing regulations to defining SBE and district responsibilities; and
- Developing administrative regulations to define what it means to make "adequate progress" (including the addition of "new indicators").

Mr. Davie stated that questions the subgroup discussed included:

- Does the district work as a team with the external evaluators right from the start?
- Who provides the interventions?
- Who provides the sanctions? Mr. Davie stated there is an ongoing concern about the role of the district in supporting low-performing schools *before* the State Superintendent of Public Instruction or Federal government get involved in issuing sanctions. It was pointed out one stronger connection in place this year is the requirement that External Evaluators collect the same information that ties into the district role.
- Should there be an advisory mailed out to superintendents? A suggestion included sending out guidelines on October 15.

Mr. Davie reported the third issue discussed by the subgroup focused around the nature of sanctions. Questions included:

- What would the SBE need to do to ensure that local districts think through their local sanctions options under SB1X within the context of Title 1 law and its requirements for districts in corrective actions?
- Should SBE adopt regulations?
- Should new legislation be passed to require local policies or simply should guidance be set out?

The subcommittee recommended creating a fair and reasonable regulation regarding an identification process for participating schools in the program then identify sanctions available and process for districts to choose/use (based on state model).

Mr. Davie requested staff to draft a proposed task and time line as part of an informational item for the November SBE meeting with the understanding the division would email a draft to subcommittee members. The SBE could then provide feedback and be drawn into discussions in a timely manner.

Alternative Accountability Subcommittee Report-out: Ms. Wilen reported that a letter to the field was mailed August 25th to all schools with CDS codes representing Alternative

Schools and Charters Schools asking them to identify themselves as alternative. Twenty-four Charter schools elected to fall under the Alternative Accountability System. A second letter including a survey will go out under SRA letterhead on October 6th. The letter will request the survey be returned by October 31st. The subcommittee has scheduled a meeting for Nov 14th to review the survey and assign work groups to develop the indicators on a worksheet.

The subcommittee scheduled a second meeting on Dec 13th to continue work on the indicators with the intent of bringing a draft to the PSAA committee in January. The subcommittee is hoping to bring a recommendation to the SBE in February. Ms. Wilen stated she estimates there are 6-7 recommendations that could possibly be made into legislation.

Ms. Wilen continued her report by stating the subgroup continues to address the question of how to include the K-1 schools. She stated there are less than 30 K-1 schools in the state. Many believe these schools should be included in the accountability system. She stated after the indicators for the Alternative Accountability System were developed, the subcommittee would be willing to hear what practitioners think, then share with the group a recommendation.

Awards Subcommittee Report-out: Mr. Hayward reported the Awards subgroup would like to merge with the II/USP subgroup for the next several upcoming meetings. He then stated that during the morning session Ms. Carstens gave a report of the September board item regarding cheating and student population changes and the effect on the API. She summarized the committee's recommendation to the SBE; i.e., for the cases of student cheating, the students scores are eliminated, but they count as being tested (for the participation rate). The affected students are eliminated for GPA funding formula. She stated that for verified adult testing irregularities, schools do not receive an API and therefore are not be eligible for awards. The State Board approved both recommendations.

Ms. Carstens stated the State School Board item included an informational item regarding changes in student population. She described the process that occurred. CDE flagged districts where data on key indicators were not consistent with the STAR header sheets. Districts were notified when differences occurred. Staff spent a great deal of time talking on the phone to each district where differences were identified. Approximately 1000 schools were notified and encouraged to correct the information. Many districts were able to make the data corrections quickly and were included in the October API release. Other schools are still in the process of correcting their data, and will be included in the second release during the first week of December.

Ms. Carstens reported that the SBE, during their September meeting, directed the department to write emergency regulations. All recommendations put forth by the PSAA committee, and passed by the board, will be drafted into regulations. The emergency regulations will be presented to the State Board for approval in October. Once the State Board approves the emergency regulations, they will go into effect for 120 days. A public

comment period will be announced, with both emergency and permanent regulations filed with the OAL.

The API/Awards Media packet and Communications packet are now available on the Internet. Awards program brochures and API slide show overheads are also located on the Internet and available for district use.

Public Comment: There was none.

Other Issues: Ms. Callahan asked about the progress of the Independent Evaluator of the II/USP and the High Achieving/Improving Schools Program evaluation. Mr. Padia responded the governor reduced the funds for the Request for Proposal. He said he was currently requesting an additional \$250,000 to bring the funding back to its original total of \$500,000.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the PSAA committee will be Tuesday, November 14, 2000, from 1:00p.m. to 4:00 p.m., California Department of Education, 721 Capitol Mall, Room 166A/B, Sacramento, CA 95814. Subcommittees will also meet on November 14 from 9:00a.m. until 12:00 noon.

Adjournment: Mr. Hayward adjourned the meeting at 2:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Seabourne,
Recording Secretary